

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /083 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5598

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SHUM, UY

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: CASE OF MYRIAM DE SOARES (SUAREZ) NETTO

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. MRS. SOARES WAS THE SUBJECT OF AN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI) INQUIRY DIRECTED TO THE GOU ON DECEMBER 22 AND APPARENTLY ANNOUNCED TO THE PRESS BY AI THAT SAME DATE. LOCAL MEDIA GAVE NO COVERAGE BUT AN ACCOUNT WAS CONTAINED IN THE DECEMBER 23 EDITION OF O JOURNAL DO BRASIL, A RIO DE JANEIRO DAILY AVAILABLE HERE. ACCORDING TO THE LATTER, GOU WAS REQUESTED BY AI TO INVESTIGATE THE DEATH OF MRS. SOARES, WIFE OF A FORMER URUGUAYAN PARLIAMENTARIAN. SHE WAS ALLEGED TO HAVE DIED OF MISTREATMENT IN A MILITARY PRISON AT THE HANDS OF THE "FUSILEROS NAVELES" (A NAVAL INFANTRY UNIT).

2. ON JANUARY 5, THE URUGUAYAN NAVY CALLED A PRESS CONFERENCE AND ISSUED A DETAILED DENIAL WHICH WAS CARRIED IN THE FOLLOWING DAY'S NATIONAL PRESS. ACCORDING TO THE NAVY COMMUNIQUE, SUBJECT WAS FULLY IDENTIFIED AS MYRIAM IVONNE VIENES DESANDE DE SOARES NETTO, AGED 46 (NOT 52 AS REPORTED BY AI). ARRESTED
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BY THE NAVY ON MAY 6, 1977, HER CASE WAS TURNED OVER TO AN INVESTIGATING OFFICER ON MAY 9 AND SHE WAS ARRAIGNED BY A MILITARY COURT ON AUGUST 15 ON THE BASIS OF PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE OF HAVING RENDERED ASSISTANCE TO AN ILLEGAL ASSOCIATION. UPON INTERNMENT, SHE WAS MEDICALLY EXAMINED AND THIS SHOWED, AMONG OTHER INDICATIONS, A "PRECANCEROUS LESION OF THE UTERUS OF A YEAR'S DURATION". ON AUGUST 3, 1977 SHE WAS TRANSFERRED

TO THE CENTRAL ARMED FORCES HOSPITAL WHERE THE CANCER WAS
CONFIRMED THROUGH BIOPSY AND WHERE SHE WAS "TREATED IN
CONSULTATION WITH VARIOUS SPECIALISTS AND PROFESSORS OF
RECOGNIZED CAPABILITY". ON OCTOBER 28 HER PROVISIONAL
RELEASE FROM PRISON WAS DECREED; SHE LEFT THE MILITARY
HOSPITAL THE FOLLOWING DAY AND THERE WAS NO FURTHER OFFICIAL
CONTACT WITH HER. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION SUBSEQUENTLY
RECEIVED IT WAS LEARNED THAT MRS. SOARES DIED IN
MONTEVIDEO ON NOVEMBER 5, 1977 IN THE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT
OF THE HOSPITAL ITALIANO (A MAJOR PRIVATE HOSPITAL HERE).
CAUSE OF DEATH WAS CERTIFIED AS "A) GENERALIZATION OF A
GENITAL CANCER; B) SEPSIS WITH MULTIPARENCEMATOSE REPER-
CUSSION; C) COMPLICATIONS FROM RADIATION THERAPY".

END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: THE GOU HAS CONSIS-
TENTLY REFUSED TO PAY ANY CONSTRUCTIVE ATTENTION TO HUMAN
RIGHTS CASES RAISED BY INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES, AND ESPE-
CIALLY BY AMNESTY. THAT IT WAS WILLING TO DO SO IN THE
PRESENT CASE SUGGESTS THAT THE FACTS LAY LARGELY, IF NOT
ENTIRELY, ON THE GOU'S SIDE. THIS IS FURTHER BORNE OUT BY
THE WEALTH OF DETAIL INCLUDED IN THE NAVY'S COMMUNIQUE.
ACCORDINGLY, THE GOU RESPONSE TO THIS CAN PROBABLY REPRESENT
ONLY A PASSING EXCEPTION TO ESTABLISHED GOU POLICY, SEIZED
UPON TO REINFORCE ITS LONG-STANDING CONTENTION THAT CRITICISM
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OF THE GOU ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS IS INCORRECT, IRRESPONSIBLE
AND MALINTENTIONED. NEVERTHELESS, ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY
NOT SO INTENDED, THIS DOES CONSTITUTE A PRECEDENT WHICH CAN
BE CITED IN URGING THE GOU TO ADOPT A MORE RESPONSIVE
APPROACH TO HUMAN RIGHTS INQUIRIES IN THE FUTURE.

4. FOR THE DEPARTMENT: ARA MAY WISH TO BRING
DETAILS OF GOU DENIAL TO ATTENTION OF WOLA (JUAN FERREIRA)
WHICH RECENTLY SENT EMBASSY PRO FORMA EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
IN CASE.
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CHEEK

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